

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32, 34-36, and 38-49 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 4, 6, 15-17, 19, 22, 26-28, 35, 36, 39, 47, and 48 having been amended and Claims 33, 37, and 50-54 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, the title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive. The title has been amended to remove the reference to the toner, which has been restricted out of the present application. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the title is descriptive of the claimed invention.

Claims 16 and 26-28 were objected to for minor informalities. Claim 16 was amended to remove the term "rich" and Claims 26-28 were amended to remove the terminology indicated as being awkward in the Official Action. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Claims 4, 15-17, 19, 22, 33, 35, 37, and 47 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of allowable Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 and all the claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. Additionally, the subject matter of allowable Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 39. Thus, Claim 39 and all the claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. The subject matter of allowable Claim 37 has been incorporated into Claim 36. Thus, Claim 36 and dependent Claim 38 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 15-17, 19, 22,

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33, 35, and 47 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Claims 15-17, 19, 22, 33, 35, and 47 are in condition for allowance.

The amendments set forth herein have rendered all of the art rejections moot, except for the rejection of Claim 6. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-164376. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants traverse the anticipation rejection of Claim 6.

In the Office Action, the JP 62-164376 reference is indicated as anticipating Claim 6. However, the Applicants note that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). As will be demonstrated below, the JP 62-164376 reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of independent Claim 6.

The English translation of the Abstract of JP 62-164376 describes a removing apparatus for extraneous matter on a photoconductor surface, wherein a cleaning member is applied to contact on a surface of a photoconductor (11), and a polishing member, which is composed of an elastic body on which abrasive is dispersed. The JP 62-164376 reference does not disclose an entire blade that is an abrasive layer, as recited in Claim 6 of the present application. Instead, the JP 62-164376 reference describes the polishing member as an elastic body on which abrasive is dispersed. Also, the figures of JP 62-164376 reference do not depict an entire blade of an abrasive layer.

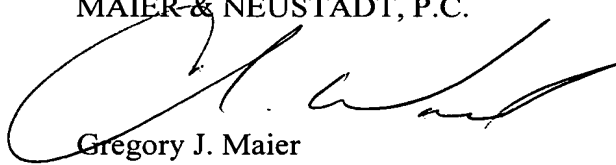
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Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 6.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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